
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #4

Sitka... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Hayward Strait. Weather during today's flight was good with east winds at 5-knots and overcast skies. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was still north of Bieli Rock. Numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters north of Bieli Rock and approximately 300 sea lions in several large groups were observed in open water near the whales. A brief boat survey conducted by the department located several whales and sea lions feeding on smaller schools of herring in the shallower waters near the eastern shore of Kruzof Island. Additionally, a test boat located a large biomass of herring north of Bieli Rock this morning, but the fish were too deep to make a successful set.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Friday, March 16, after the next scheduled aerial survey. The department will place the fishery on two-hour notice and schedule a pre-fishery organizational meeting once test sampling indicates increasing roe maturity.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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